

(WASHINGTON, DC) - This is an historic day in America, and I would like to congratulate Barack Obama on his inauguration as 44th President of the United States. This inauguration is indicative of a country that has made great strides in race relations. Although President Obama and I may be of different parties, today is a day to celebrate history in America, and I commend him as he begins his journey.

President Obama takes office in a time of great challenge, and as he has stated, the new President and Congress must work together to solve the problems we now face. This means a bi-partisan approach to the great issues of our day, and a time when we all must work towards the future of America.

We need to come together to get our economy moving again, and this includes keeping taxes low and investing in America's businesses. America must continue on the road to energy independence by investing in alternative energy solutions while emphasizing good stewardship of our environment. With that said, I am eager to get the new President's support on my legislation to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Most importantly, President Obama and Congress must build off the Bush Administration's success in protecting the homeland. Keeping the American people safe is a President's chief responsibility, and we must work together to ensure that America remains secure.

I wish the new President well, and I look forward to working with him to strengthen America and improve life for Virginians.